

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-40 are pending.

Claims 1-3, 8-13, 18-23, 28-33 and 38-40 stand rejected.

Claims 4-7, 14-17, 24-27 and 34-37 are objected to.

Claims 4, 14, 24, and 34 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 5-7, 11, 15-17, 21, 25-27, 31, 35-37 have been amended.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 4-7, 14-17, 24-27, and 34-37 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 8, 10-13, 18, 20-23, 28, 30-33, 38 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,436,101 to Hamada ("Hamada").

In response to this rejection and in view of the allowable subject matter in dependent claims 4-7, 14-17, 24-27, and 34-37, as indicated by the Examiner, independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 are amended, as presented above, to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claims 4, 14, 24, and 34, respectively. Rewritten claims 1, 11, 21 and 31, thus, are allowable over Hamada. Accordingly, entry of the amendments to claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 and their allowance are requested.

The rejected claims 2, 3, 8 and 10 depend from the amended claim 1. Independent claim 1, as rewritten herein, is allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 2, 3, 8 and 10 are requested.

The rejected claims 12, 13, 18 and 20 depend from the amended claim 11. Independent claim 11, as rewritten herein, is allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 12, 13, 18 and 20 are requested.

The rejected claims 22, 23, 28 and 30 depend from the amended claim 21. Independent claim 21, as rewritten herein, is allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 22, 23, 28 and 30 are requested.

The rejected claims 32, 33, 38 and 40 depend from the amended claim 31. Independent claim 31, as rewritten herein, is allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 32, 33, 38 and 40 are requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 9, 19, 29 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamada.

Claims 9, 19, 29 and 39 depend from claims 1, 11, 21 and 31, respectively. Claims 1, 11, 21 and 31, as rewritten herein, are allowable over the prior art. Thus, claims 9, 19, 29 and 39 are also allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 9, 19, 29 and 39 are requested.

IV. Objection to Claims 4-7, 14-17, 24-27, and 34-37

Claims 4-7, 14-17, 24-27, and 34-37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, claims 4, 14, 24 and 34 are canceled above and the allowable subject matter from those claims are incorporated into their respective base claims 1, 11, 21 and 31, as rewritten

herein.

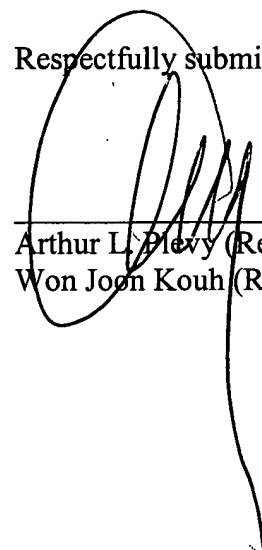
Claims 5-7, 15-17, 25-27, and 35-37 are amended above to correct their dependency to correspond to the amendments to claims 1, 11, 21 and 31.

For the above reasons, reconsideration, entry of the above amendments, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 8-13, 18-23, 28-33, and 38-40 over the prior art, withdrawal of the objection to claims 5-7, 15-17, 25-27, and 35-37, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are: claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-23, 25-33, and 35-40. Should the Examiner not agree that all claims are allowable, the examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

V. Fees

No fees are believed necessary for filing this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required with this communication to Duane Morris LLP deposit account **50-2061**.

Respectfully submitted,



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